

REMARKS

The applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough examination of the application. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Entry of Reply

Entry of this Supplemental Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 is respectfully requested because it cancels claims and places the application in condition for allowance. Alternately, entry is requested as placing the application in better form for appeal.

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-4, and 7-9, 23, 24 and 27 are pending in the application. Claim 25 and withdrawn claims 10-22, 26 and 28 are cancelled by this Amendment.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Izumi

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Izumi (U.S. Patent 6,417,898). Applicants traverse.

In the Advisory Action mailed October 5, 2004, the Examiner stated that claims 1-4, 7-9, 23, 24 and 27 would be allowable if a timely filed amendment was filed canceling the non-allowable claims. The Examiner's comments have been considered. Rejected claim 25 has been cancelled by this Amendment. Withdrawn claims 10-22, 26 and 28 have also been cancelled by this Amendment.

This rejection is accordingly overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

The Drawings

The Examiner is respectfully requested to indicate whether the drawing figures are acceptable in the next official action.

Priority

The Examiner has acknowledged foreign priority.

Conclusion

The rejection has been overcome. No issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to allow the application.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to

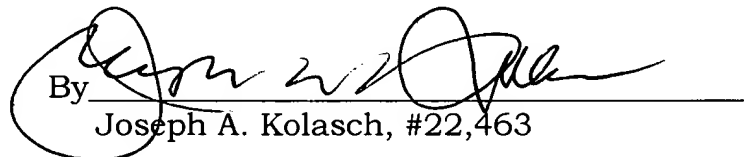
conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) respectfully petition(s) for a two (2) month extension of time for filing a reply in connection with the present application, and the required fee of \$430.00 is attached hereto.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Joseph A. Kolasch, #22,463


JAK/REG:jls
2658-0183P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

(Rev. 09/30/03)